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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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THE NEW STEEL WORKS, VITKOVICE

Location

2. "The New Steel Works in Vitkovice are located in the eastern part of the town, east of the Vitkovice-Hrabuwka highway. The plant area is 2000 m x 1000 m. On three sides the area is fenced by iron grating 2.5 m high on three sides and by a wooden fence two m high on the northern side.

Installations

3. "The New Steel Works comprise the following installations:

(a) Manganese foundry, about 20 x 30 m, situated in the eastern part of the plant area. Two furnaces, each yielding five tons of 'mangan' [sic] every four hours.

(b) Depots for raw material, about 15 x 3 x 4 m, situated about 20 m north of the foundry.

(c) Mill for magnesium, about 15 x 20 x 10 (No. 16 on plant diagram).

(d) Foundry (No. 20 on diagram) with two Martin furnaces (Nos. 1 and 2 on plant diagram) and eight Talbot furnaces. The foundry is in the same building as a depot for fire-clay bricks. The building is situated about four m east of the raw material depot and consists of one floor, 120 x 60 x 30 m. The first Martin furnace produces

75 tons of steel in seven hours. The second Martin furnace produces 150 tons of steel in seven hours. Each Talbot furnace can produce 225 tons of high quality steel in eight hours. However, these furnaces are used only when needed. The majority are idle. The hall for heating the ingots has eight heating furnaces, which can heat 15 ingots. The actual new steel works have five cranes for 100 tons each, one crane for 150 tons, three cranes for 15 tons, four cranes for 10 tons. Near the heating furnaces are four cranes for 50 tons.

(e) Old rolling mills (No. 33 on plant diagram), situated four m east of the foundry. Size about 60 x 30 x 30 m. Equipped with one rolling 'chair' with five profiles; one hydraulic shears.

(f) New rolling mills, about 60 x 40 x 30. Not completed as of July 1953. No machinery installed.

(g) Pumping station, 30 x 20 x 12 m, situated 20 south of the old rolling mills.

(h) Railway freight station for the New Steel Works. Situated south of the plant.

(i) Railway line running from the Old Steel Works of Vitkovice to the northern part of the plant.

(j) Transportation department for the entire national enterprise. Situated 'behind' the Vitkovice-Hrabuwka highway.

4. Power
"The plant receives electric power from the electric power plants of the First of May, in Moravska Ostrava.

5. Transportation
"The New and the Old Steel Works at Vitkovice each has its own transportation system: a narrow-gauge railway. There are three locomotives.

6. Raw Materials
"The New Steel Works receives:

(a) Iron ore from the USSR, Sweden, Poland and Slovakia.
(b) Scrap iron mostly from Poland and from Brno and Pilsen in Czechoslovakia.
(c) Manganese ore from the USSR and Sweden.
(d) Dolomite from Poland.
(e) Chromium, shipped in boxes 100 x 60 x 60 cm from the port of Trieste. Each box holds 150 kg of chromium.
(f) Silicon, shipped in boxes 100 x 60 x 60 cm, weighing 150 kg. Origin unknown to me.

7. Production
"Each month the factory produces:

(a) Three large pieces (weighing about 120 tons) which are later used for the production of crankshafts.

(b) 9000 ingots for the production of rails (model III).

(c) 9000 ingots for the production of iron sheet. (model of mixture VI).

(d) 1000 armored plates, 150 x 110 x 35 cm, model of the mixture # 7.

(e) 20 ingots of high quality steel for the production of axles; mixture # 12.

(f) Ingots for production of rails.

8. "High quality metals have not been available for the production of high quality steel. In January 1953 the percentage of rejects in the rolling mills was 45%. All the foremen were transferred elsewhere.

9. "The entire production of rails is exported to Korea. The large axles and ship propellers are completed in the Old Steelworks and then shipped to Switzerland. The ingots for iron sheets are used for Czechoslovak needs. The iron plates are exported to the USSR. The ingots of high quality steel are transported to the blacksmith section of the Old Steel Works in Vitkovice.

10. "In the first six months of 1953 the Five-Year Economic Program was fulfilled 88%. Absenteeism of workers amounted to 30%.

Administration

11. "The manager of the New Steel Works is (fnu) Muller, a Communist, about 174 cms tall with dark hair. He always wears glasses.

12. "The production manager is (fnu) Zatopek, a Communist, about 163 cms tall with blond hair and an aquiline nose. He denounces workers in the plant.

Labor

13. "There are 150 employees, of whom 10 are women. About 40 political prisoners from the military academy at Vranice unload railway freight cars. There were about 50 brigadiers in the plant. About 20 brigadiers from other factories worked for six months [date not given] in the New Steel Works as a voluntary brigade. There were no Soviet employees.

14. "Average net monthly salaries in the new currency [post 30 May 53]:

General worker	-1500 Crowns
Working foreman or old master	-2200 Crowns
Young engineer	-1600 Crowns
Apprentice	- 150 Crowns plus food and lodging
Furnace worker	-2500 Crowns
First helper near furnaces	-1800 Crowns
Second helper near furnaces	-1500 Crowns
Crane driver	-1600 Crowns
Director	-3000 Crowns
Female employee in the technical offices	- 700 Crowns

15. "A typical foundry worker may earn 1600 Crowns net per month but have to work every Sunday. The discounts and deductions for this worker may come to 196 Kcs per month, plus 1% of gross salary for ROH fees (obligatory communist union for workers). Fifty per cent extra is paid for Sunday work. If the first foundry worker near the furnaces exceeds his norms he may earn as much as 100 Kcs extra per month.

16. "Most of the workers live in private flats. The CP members get flats in the new living quarters of the Steel Works. Most of the workers bring their meals from home. Very few buy the cold meals in the factory canteen.

17. "There are two hours of political education a week, after work on two days. The leading workers and leading members of the CP receive special three-month courses at Moravska Ostrava. After that preparation they become political instructors among the workers.

18. "The workers are not interested in their jobs. There is a large percentage of absenteeism. The workers were infuriated by the currency reform /30 May 53/. On the welding 'forms' I often read anti-communist slogans.

Security

19. "Two gatekeepers armed with pistols are posted near the entrance gate. At night two members of the workers' militia guard the gate. They are armed with pistols. On Sundays I always saw the fire-fighting guard about.

Layout

20. "Following is a sketch of the layout of the New Steel Works at Vitkovice:

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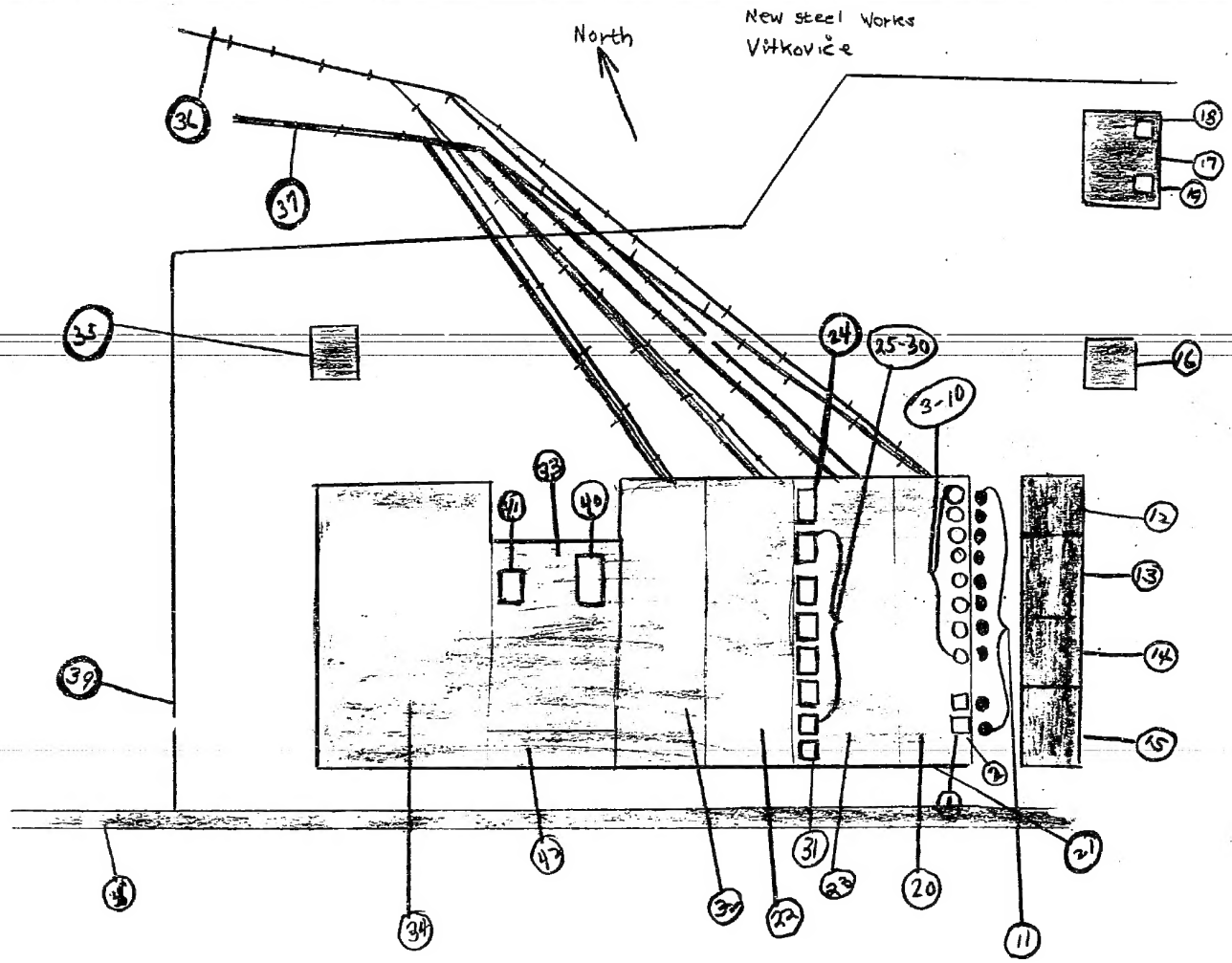

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Plant: New Steel Works, Vitkovice

1. Martin furnace.
2. Martin furnace.
3. - 10. Talbot furnaces.
11. Chimneys for the furnaces.
12. Depot for lime.
13. Bunker for dolomite (calcium magnesium carbonate).
14. Depot for magnesium.
15. Empty depot.
16. Mill for magnesium.
17. Foundry for manganese.
18. - 19. Furnaces for manganite.
20. Hall with Martin and Talbot furnaces.
21. Main gate to that hall.
22. Depot for fire-clay bricks.
23. Hall for heating furnaces.
24. - 31. Heating furnaces.
32. Laboratories.
33. Old rolling mills.
34. New rolling mills.
35. Pumping station for rolling mills, Martin furnaces.
36. Narrow-gauge railway.
37. Regular Czechoslovak railway line.
38. Highway to Hrabuwka.
39. Fence.
40. Rolling mills.
41. Hydraulic shears.
42. Temporary depot for rolled material.

OLD STEEL WORKS, VITKOVICE

Location

21. "The Old Steel Works in Vitkovice are located in the northwestern part of the town. On the northwestern side of the plant area runs the highway from Ostrava to Zabreh.

22. "The enterprise is surrounded by an iron fence, except on the northwestern side where there is a concrete wall. The fence is 2.5 m high.

Raw Materials

23. "The Old Steel Works receives:

(a) Iron ore from Sweden, the USSR, Slovakia and Poland.

(b) Copper ore from Sweden.

(c) Scrap iron from Poland; a small amount from Czechoslovakia.

(d) Chromium from Belgium.

(e) Lime from Poland.

(f) Dolomite from Poland.

Production

24. "Production at the Old Steel Works includes:

(a) Ingots from chromium steel for: railroad car axles, cogwheels, large axles.

(b) Tank turrets, 70 cm thick. The steel plate used in this production is three m long, 180 cm wide and 140 cm thick.

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25. "Due to the shortage of Swedish ore 42% of the production [of what?] were rejects in Jan 53.

26. "The armored sheets and wheels for railroad cars are exported to Korea, China and the U.S.S.R. About 80% of the total production goes to the U.S.S.R. The Five-Year Economic Program was fulfilled Jan 53 by 101%.

Administration

27. "The manager of the Old Steel Works is Ing. (fnu) Milata, whom some consider one of the strongest members of the CP in the Moravska Ostrava - Vitkovice area. He is tall, about 30 years old, with dark hair.

28. "The director of production is (fnu) Ticka.

Labor

29. "Most of the workers eat in the factory canteen and live in private quarters. There are some barracks in Vitkovice for the Slovak workers. The working morale is bad.

30. "There is an hour of political education twice a week after working hours.

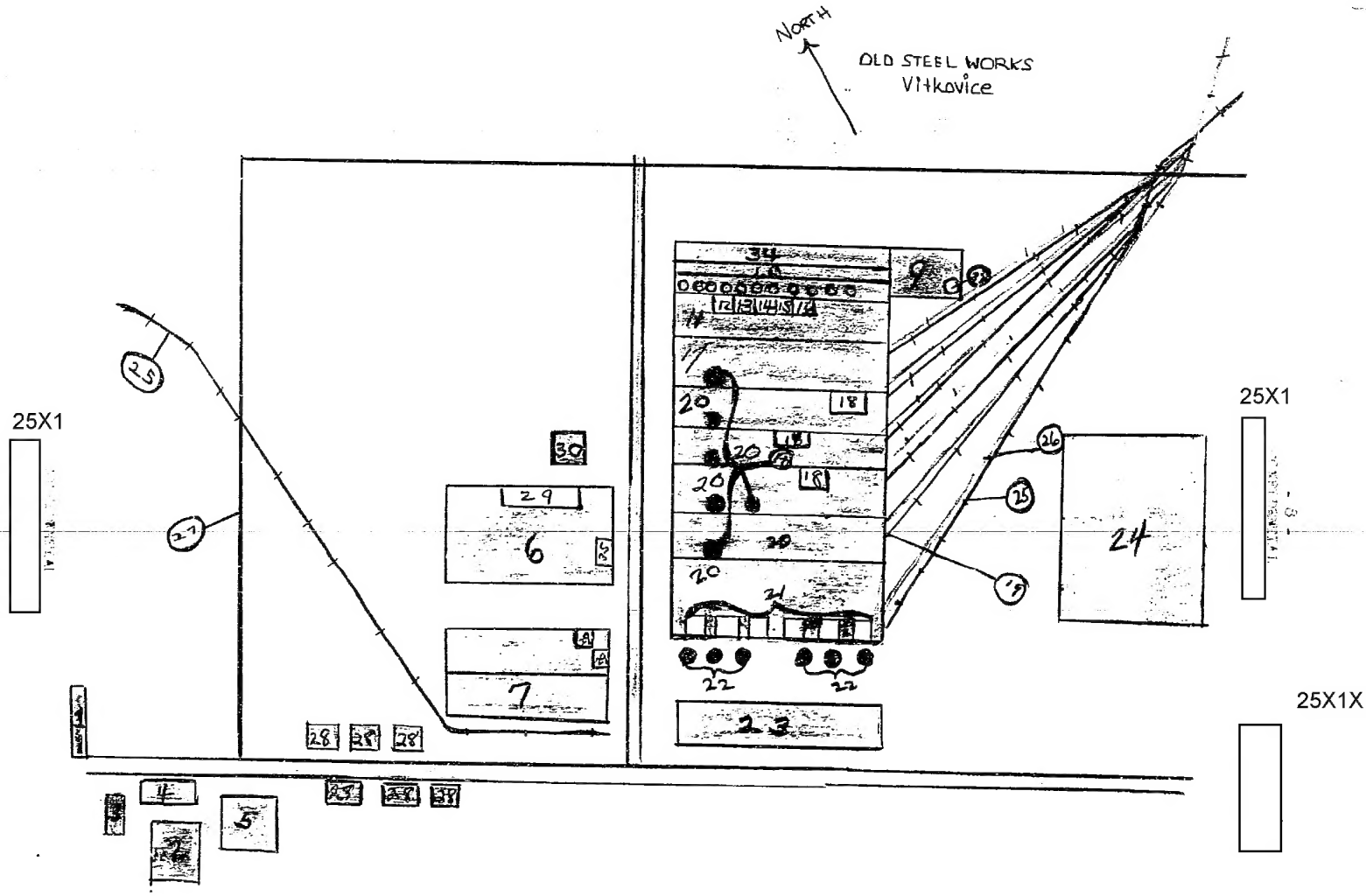
Security

31. "The plant has three gates, each guarded by three gatekeepers armed with pistols. At night guards from the workers' militia are also on patrol.

Layout

32. "Following is a sketch of the layout of the Old Steel Works at Vitkovice:

[See following page]



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Legend: Old Steel Works, Vitkovice

1. Workers' hospital. Serves the workers and members of their families.
2. Plant 'hotel'. Used for Communist meetings, theater productions and as a workers' canteen.
3. Workers' canteen, 50 m from the hotel.
4. Salary department for all iron and steel workers at Vitkovice, a one-story building, about 30 x 10 m.
5. New workers' mess hall, used for those on special diets. The food for this mess and also those workers using it must be approved by a doctor.
6. Tempering section, about 200 x 50 m. Machinery includes a pneumatic press, a pneumatic hammer, three 15-ton cranes, six furnaces, two oil- and two 'water-tempering' tanks.
7. Blacksmith section. Production of wheels for railroad cars and of large axles. Machinery includes two furnaces, two pneumatic hammers for work on the heavy axles, 15 spring hammers, four pneumatic hammers, four small heating furnaces, two 50-ton cranes.
8. Store of ingots for the blacksmith section. /not on diagram/
9. Preparation of the mixture for the production of fire-clay bricks.
10. Raw material for the production of fire-clay bricks. A conveyor belt carries the material into (9).
11. The fire-clay part of the plant has three departments: the mills for milling the raw material are in (10); this is carried to (9), mixed and used for the production of bricks. The department (11) is used for production of various sorts of fire-clay material to be used in (9). Department (11) has six milling machines on the ground floor, 15 mixing machines on the first floor and 10 'quilt-machines' on the second floor.
12. - 16. Sections for drying bricks.
17. Depot for bricks.
18. Casting holes.
19. Electric furnaces /not clear whether one or several/ for special high quality steel, 30 tons of material.
20. Welding halls.
21. Martin furnaces, capacity of 44 tons of steel.
22. Chimneys, 60 m high.
23. Department for production of kettles. Machinery includes four presses, five welding machines.
24. Machinery section: four large lathes, 10 small lathes, six large frazers for the production of cogwheels, six shaping machines, five drilling machines, three cranes.
25. Normal-gauge railway lines.
26. Narrow-gauge railway lines.
27. Fence.
28. Workers' barracks.
29. Heating furnaces.
30. Pumping station. Four engine pumps.
31. /not on diagram/
32. Mixing machines.
33. Milling machines. /not on diagram/
34. Conveyor belt.
35. Generators."

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